

Dana Blankenhorn

and the War Against Oil

A B O



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Change is good

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OCTOBER 08, 2010

Who Leads to How Many

Think of this as Volume 14, Number 41 of [A-Clue.com](#), the online newsletter I've written since 1997. Enjoy.

In that past I've discussed how political theses live and die, how they're not just political but economic, and how they expire as the media mix changes.

Another key to understanding them is they are all about new people.

Republicans began life as a coalition of capital and free labor, in the 1850s. Their coalition was renewed with the rise of distribution channels early in the last century. Democrats dominated from 1932 based on the votes of cities, while Republicans returned to power after 1968 on the strength of the suburbs.

What makes Obama unlike Carter, or Clinton, is partly the nature of his coalition. It includes all the rising forces within the country:

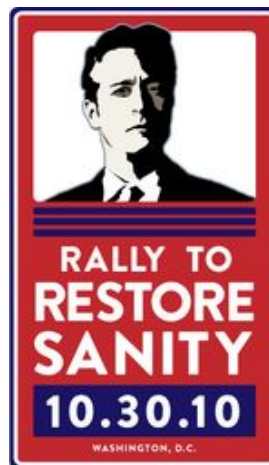
- The new class based around universities.
- Immigrants.
- Young people.

Most of these folks had not voted before. Young people were notorious for under-voting. Immigrants were invisible, and the "new class" didn't seem to exist before the 1990s.

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OCTOBER 01, 2010

Advice for young people

Think of this as Volume 14, Number 40 of [A-Clue.com](#), the online newsletter I've written since 1997. Enjoy.

The biggest mistake I ever made was journalism school.

Not that journalism has been a mistake. Far from it. It's what I am, not just what I do. I have loved nothing more than writing since I was a little kid. It's a love affair that has lasted nearly 50 years.

The problem is with journalism's definition of itself, which was presented to me in the first lecture I went to.



R E C

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A D I

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"Journalists are people who work for people who buy ink by the barrel," I was told.

What's wrong with that sentence? **Work for people.**

Journalism, as a profession, as something you're employed to do and be, was already dying in the late 1970s. I could see the end coming. I debated the end with my teachers. But I really did nothing about it.

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